

I am proud that Mr. Kerr's outstanding years of service and dedication are being recognized with the National Wildlife Refuge Association's "Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year" award—one of the nation's highest honors given to conservation leaders.

While overseeing thousands of acres of marshes, grasslands, and oak savanna throughout Northern and Central Wisconsin, Mr. Kerr finds unique ways to engage his neighbors and to lend a hand to many bird species in the process.

I appreciate this opportunity to honor Mr. Kerr for putting conservation at the forefront in our community. On behalf of Wisconsin and this entire body, we thank him.

RECOGNIZING MS. SOFIA BILSKI

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize one of my constituents, Ms. Sofia Bilski of Windermere, Florida, for her acceptance to the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. Ms. Bilski was selected for her academic excellence, leadership potential and exemplary citizenship.

The mission of People to People Leadership Ambassador Programs is to bridge cultural and political borders through education and exchange. To this end, People to People offers domestic and international educational programs that promote cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and leadership. It is my hope that Ms. Bilski benefitted greatly from her participation in the World Leadership Forum, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MACKENZIE ELLIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mackenzie Ellis of Johnston, Iowa. Mackenzie will be representing the United States as an educational ambassador through the Ameson Year in China (AYC) program.

Mackenzie, a recent graduate of Iowa State University, will be traveling to China to spend a year teaching, studying, and working with public schools in an effort to make a difference. She will have the opportunity to learn new languages and immerse herself in the Chinese culture through a number of different programs offered through AYC.

I commend Mackenzie for seizing this opportunity to expand her knowledge of different cultures and explore what the world has to offer. I am proud to represent Iowans like Mackenzie in the U.S. House of Representatives. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating her and wish her nothing but the best as she embarks on this new adventure.

HONORING MR. ARMAND CHARBONNET

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Armand Louis Charbonnet, the Vice President of Charbonnet-Labat-Glapion Funeral Homes, who passed away on July 9, 2015, at the age 84.

Mr. Charbonnet was a United States Army veteran, a lifelong Catholic, member of the Vikings Krewe, patriarch of his family, and a leader in the New Orleans community. He directed numerous funerals in New Orleans and surrounding parishes in one of the oldest continuously operating African-American funeral homes in the country. Known for its traditional jazz funerals, horse drawn glass hearses, and the famous saying "My Soul Goes to Heaven but take my body to Charbonnet," Charbonnet-Labat-Glapion Funeral Homes has served Louisiana for more than 132 years.

To honor Mr. Charbonnet, who was affectionately known by family and friends as "Big Daddy," today we recognize the fulfillment of his mission. In commemoration of his life and achievements we strive to put the needs of others first as he did for countless families through the painful process of laying a loved one to rest.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACH SAFE RELATIONSHIPS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Teach Safe Relationships Act along with my colleagues SUZANNE BONAMICI and ALMA ADAMS.

Too often, young Americans engage in abusive, unhealthy relationships. In fact, young women between 16 and 24 years old are victims of intimate partner violence at three times the national average of all women. These statistics and the stories of sexual abuse and dating violence among teens and college students demand that we examine innovative approaches to curb unhealthy relationship behavior.

The Teach Safe Relationships Act, introduced by Sen. TIM KAINE of Virginia, takes a strong step to address this problem by ensuring that American students discuss safe relationship behavior as part of sex education. Through comprehensive curricula that use effective approaches to prevent teen dating violence, sexual assault, and harassment, we can ensure that our young people have the tools they need to make safe decisions in relationships and identify unhealthy or abusive behavior.

I am encouraged that key provisions of this legislation have been included in the Every Child Achieves Act in the Senate, and hope that my colleagues in the House will build on that momentum by supporting the Teach Safe Relationships Act.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS HALLMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Hallman of Des Moines, Iowa for receiving a coveted Fulbright award during the 2014–2015 Academic Year. Nicholas is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, History, and French. He will travel to Turkey in September 2015 and begin his work in one of the newly-established state universities.

While in Turkey, Nicholas will be teaching English and plans to establish an American film and television club. He hopes to bridge the gap and make comparisons between American and Turkish society. Nicholas would also like to spend time organizing relief efforts for war refugees and volunteer at refugee camps.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Nicholas today. It is the young people like him who are willing to work hard and make sacrifices for the betterment of society that will lead our future generations. I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Nicholas on this outstanding achievement and wish him nothing but continued success moving forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CLEAN SLATE FOR MARIJUANA OFFENSES ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that will allow certain federal marijuana offenders the opportunity to clear their record.

In 1973, Oregon became the first state to decriminalize the personal possession of a small amount of marijuana. Since then, an additional 15 states have adopted similar policies. 23 states, the District of Columbia and Guam have passed laws that allow for the use of marijuana for certain medical conditions. In 2012, Washington and Colorado legalized the adult use of marijuana and in 2014, Oregon and Alaska followed suit. Oregon also recently led the nation in passing legislation to reduce penalties for marijuana offenses and qualifying certain marijuana offenses for expungement that could not previously be expunged.

Under the Controlled Substances Act, however, marijuana remains a Schedule I substance, classified as severely as heroin and LSD and defined as having no medical value. As a result, at the federal level, possessing or distributing marijuana, regardless of the amount and regardless of state law, remains illegal.

While the current Administration's policy is not to prosecute those who are operating in compliance with state law so long as they meet certain federal enforcement priorities, this was not always the case and may not always be the case going forward. Until recently, too many people were wrongly caught